

February 26, 2023

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear The Public Health Committee,

I am writing to oppose “An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients (SB1076).”

There are situations when we would intervene to forcibly stop a person from committing suicide. For example, when someone is standing on the Golden Gate Bridge contemplating suicide, what happens? Immediate action is taken. Traffic is stopped on both sides of the bridge. The police are called. There is a significant effort made to forcibly stop this person from jumping off the bridge and ending his or her own life. Why do we take this action? Because we value the life of the person standing on the bridge. We do not want them to commit suicide. We want to preserve human life and save them from their own destruction. With this example in mind, it seems paradoxical to say to someone: “If you are healthy and seek to kill yourself (ie. the person on the bridge), we can’t let you do so because your life is valuable. However, if you are physically unhealthy and seek to kill yourself (with assisted suicide), now it’s ok and we will let you do so because your life is suddenly not valuable.” Both individuals have the desire to end their life, yet proponents of assisted suicide are willing to save one life and kill the other. This seems like a grave contradiction.

If assisted suicide is legalized, there is an attempt to draw a vague line between those lives that are worth living and those lives that are not worth living. If a healthy person is persuaded by another to commit suicide, what happens? The persuader is criminally responsible for the death because that life was deemed worth living. However, if people have a physical illness, the thought process suddenly shifts to, “Oh, well, never mind. Their lives aren’t worth living. Suicide is acceptable.” Again, this seems like a devastating contradiction. I believe that we, as a society, should promote the notion that every human life matters. Every human being has the right to life. Every human life is valuable. If we see any human being - whether sick or healthy - consider ending their valuable life, we must help them out of this destructive decision rather than perpetuate it. I strongly urge you to please oppose the passing of “An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients (SB1076).” Valuable lives are at stake.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

A.J. Rocco